

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

February 14, 2005

Executive Tower

1700 West Washington Street

Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Basement Room 56

MINUTES

Members Present-

Kurt Davis – President

Kimberly Mosher– Vice President

Mary Gifford – Superintendent’s Designee

Lynne Adams – Public Member.

Jose Gabriel Loyola – Public Member

Linda Parson-Business Member

Onnie Shekerjian- Public Member

Magdalena Verdugo-Charter School Operator

Members Absent

David Hume-Business Member

Senator Linda Aguirre - Advisory

Senator John Huppenthal - Advisory

Representative Ted Carpenter - Advisory

Meeting began at 9:01 AM

Agenda Item A: Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item B: Moment of Silence

Agenda Item C: Roll Call: Traci Sawyer-Sinkbeil called the roll and confirmed a quorum. Jose Gabriel Loyola arrived at 9:07am.

Agenda Item D: Call to the Public

None

Agenda Item E: Consent Agenda

1. New Charter School Application Forms,

Instructions, and Process for 2006-2007.

2. Arizona Montessori Charter School-Anthem—

Request for exception to USFRCS and Procurement.

3. Educational Impact, Inc.—Request for exception to USFRCS and Procurement.

4. Educational Impact, Inc.—Change in grade levels served from K-3 to K-4.

5. Vision Charter Schools, Inc.—Request for exception to USFRCS and Procurement.

6. Wilson High School—Request for exception to USFRCS and Procurement.

MOTION

Motion by Lynne Adams to accept Consent Agenda Items, 3, 4, 5, and 6. Motion seconded by Kimberly Mosher.

Motion passes unanimously

Onnie Shekerjian requested that Item E-1 be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion and Lynne Adams requested that Item E-2 be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

1. Onnie Shekerjian led the discussion of questions of concern that were presented to the Board from the Arizona Charter School Association. Ms. Shekerjian responded to each of the issues raised. Representatives from the Charter School Associations were present and answered questions from the Board.

2. Lynne Adams led the discussion regarding the past concerns of Arizona Montessori Charter School, Glendale & Prescott sites.

MOTION

Motion by Lynne Adams to accept Consent Agenda Item E-1.
Motion seconded by Onnie Shekerjian.

Motion passes unanimously

MOTION

Motion by Lynne Adams to accept Consent Agenda Item E-2.
Motion seconded by Linda Parson.

Motion failed

(2 ayes-Parson & Davis)
(3 nays-Gifford, Adams, & Shekerjian)
(3 abstain-Mosher, Loyola, & Verdugo)

Agenda Item F: President's Report

President Davis welcomed Linda Parson to the Board. She replaces Mary Lynn Kelly as the Business Member.

President Kurt Davis proposed that the Board hold a one-day retreat in connection with its Tucson meeting. In order to accommodate planning for the retreat, the Board decided to hold its April meeting, rather than its March meeting, in Tucson. The Board meeting in Tucson will be held Monday, April 11th with a reception with charter operators planned for that evening. The Board's retreat will take place on Tuesday, April 12th.

No action taken

Agenda Item G: Superintendent's Report

Superintendent's Designee Mary Gifford reported that Executive Director Kristen Jordison continues to work with ADE and for-profit charter schools following the recent federal determination that for-profit charter schools are not entitled to receive federal Title 1 or IDEA funds. These schools will continue to receive federal funds through the remainder of this fiscal year, but it is unclear what will happen in subsequent fiscal years. Ms. Gifford said that as soon as it is available, she will report on the final determination. President Kurt Davis recommended that the Board form an ad-hoc committee to identify options available to the Board, so that it can take the appropriate steps once the final determination is released. The ad-hoc committee was approved and includes Ms. Gifford, Ms. Onnie Shekerjian, and Ms. Magdalena Verdugo.

No action taken

Agenda Items H: Executive Director's Report

1. Status of schools with previous and/or on-going board actions: 4-Winds Academy, Academy of Hope, Aprender Tucson, Arizona Montessori Charter School,

Aztlan Academy, Casa Blanca Middle School, Cesar Chavez Middle School, Inc., Crown Charter School, Dove Learning, Inc., Ecotech Academy of Science & Agriculture, Gan Yeladeem, Horizon's Challenge Charter School, Humanistic Education Authentic Rigorous Transcendent, Kachina Country Day, Little Singer, Mingus Mountain Estate Residential Center, Omega Alpha Academy, Inc., Progressive Junior High School, Inc., Progressive Leadership Academy, Rolling Hills Charter School, Tertulia, Wide Ruins Community School, Inc.

Kristen reviewed the on-going actions:

- 12 audits are still outstanding
- 2 corrective action plans are missing – Ecotech & Gan Yeladeem
- The revocation hearing was held for Horizon's Challenge and the ALJ should issue his report within 20 days.
- Tertulia and Casa Blanca both filed their corrective action plans and thus the revocation hearings have been vacated per the settlement agreement approved by the Board at the last meeting.
- A settlement agreement for Little Singer will be considered today.
- Academy of Hope will continue to hearing next week.
- And the hearing for Rolling Hills has concluded and we are waiting for the closing documents to be filed with OAH then the ALJ will issue his report.

Kristen stated staff has been working on the financial, program & compliance audit of Dove Learning that was requested by the Board at the last meeting. Staff has spent approximately 7 days on site reviewing items such as financial documents, attendance data, and monitoring their academic program. Although this review is not yet complete it will be done shortly and the Board President has suggested conducting a special meeting to review the report. Kristen stated a concern that staff has at this time regarding students that are in the 2007 cohort for testing. Approximately 10 students should be given the high school AIMS test. Kristen stated she will be in contact with each of board member to finalize the date and time of the special meeting for the review of the final report.

2. Reminder that March meeting will be in Tucson

Discussion held during the President's report.

3. First and Second Year Visits—Update on the progress and findings of the visits.

MOTION

Motion by Mary Gifford to change the date of unresolved issues of those schools with on-going actions to April's board meeting instead of May to start revocation proceedings if necessary.
Motion seconded by Kimberly Mosher.

Motion passes unanimously

DeAnna Rowe, Director of Academic Affairs, provided an update on the progress of and findings from the first and second year site visits. At its November 2004 meeting, the Board approved the process for conducting these visits as part of its academic accountability and compliance process. DeAnna reported that all 10 first-year site visits have been completed. Second-year site visits are underway with 21 schools scheduled for unannounced visits before the end of April. So far, four second-year schools have been visited. DeAnna also emphasized that schools that have failed to demonstrate a comprehensive program of instruction aligned to the standards are deemed out of compliance until a visit can be conducted the next year to verify compliance.

Agenda Item I: Subcommittee Reports and Action Items:

1. Legislative Sub-Committee Report—Update and review of committee actions—Mary Gifford

Mary Gifford, chairman of the Legislative sub-committee, stated that the sub-committee decided to take a narrower approach to legislation and focus the Board's efforts on those bills that either directly effect charter schools or the Board itself. As a result, the sub-committee has taken the position of "no position" on many bills. During the meeting, in addition to supporting the positions determined by the Legislative Sub-committee on other bills the Board took positions on the following bills:

- House Bill 2392 (Charter schools; site councils), *oppose*.
- House Bill 2429 (Charter schools; application fees), *support*
- House Bill 2438 (Charter school sponsors; fees), *support with amendment*
- House Bill 2596 (Charter schools; pending fingerprint checks), *support*
- House Bill 2718 (Education; omnibus), *amend*
- Senate Bill 1059 (Charter schools; fingerprinting; supervision), *support w/amendment*
- Senate Bill 1315 (Charter schools; prior year funding), *oppose but work with sponsor*
- Senate Bill 1422 (TAPBI program; school), *support*

Michele Diamond, Director of Government & Financial Affairs, provided additional information to the Board.

At the request of Board, the updated legislative tracking documents will be made available on the Board's website each week through the legislative session.

MOTION

Motion by Kurt Davis to accept the Legislative Agenda as updated. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford.

Motion passes unanimously

MOTION

Motion by Onnie Shekerjian to support Senate Bill 1422. Motion seconded by Linda Parson.

**Motion passes
(Gifford abstain)**

**Agenda Item J: Presentation on grant opportunity—
Governor’s Office - Becky Hill**
Presentation rescheduled

Board break from 10:35am to 10:50am

Agenda Item K: Action Item

1. Little Singer – Discussion and possible action to accept the proposed Settlement Agreement and dismiss the Notice of Intent to Revoke the Charter and vacate the hearing.

Kristen provided background information and described the settlement agreement that was presented to the Board for consideration. Kristen answered questions from the Board.

MOTION

Motion by Kimberly Mosher to accept the settlement agreement and to dismiss the Notice of Intent to Revoke and vacate the hearing for **Little Singer Community School**. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford.

**Motion passes
(Shekerjian absent for vote)**

Agenda Item L: Arizona School Improvement Plans (ASIP) & Solutions Teams

1. Presentation and overview of the Arizona School Improvement Plan & Board responsibilities.—Lee McIlroy

Research and Statistical Analyst, Lee McIlroy, stated that in October and November 2004, 43 Board-sponsored charter schools were designated as underperforming according to their 2004 Arizona Learns achievement profile. Pursuant to statute, each underperforming school is required to present its ASIP to the charter sponsor at a public meeting and submit a copy to the Superintendent of Public Instruction within 90 days of receiving its designation

No action taken

2. Presentation and discussion of the roles and responsibilities of the Solutions Teams in working with underperforming schools. —

Jack Rowe from the Arizona Department of Education School Effectiveness Division, presented information to the Board of the process after a school is labeled underperforming. Mr. Rowe discussed the workshops that were conducted prior to the submission of the ASIP, the role of the ASSIST coaches, and the role of the solutions teams. Mr. Rowe answered questions from the Board.

L4. Testimony from schools that failed to submit a School Improvement Plan on the reasons that the plan has not yet been submitted (A.R.S. § 15-241.L) and recognition that Classroom Site Funds monies (A.R.S. § 15-977) will be withheld for failure to submit a School Improvement Plan for each day plus ninety days that the plan is late pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-241.L.

No action taken

1. Liberty Traditional Charter School

Bonnie Krauel, Principal, stated that the school did not believe they needed to submit a ASIP since the underperforming designation was based on attendance and the ASIP did not address this. Staff provided clarification that the underperforming label is not based on attendance but was a factor in the designation of AYP. Ms. Krauel did indicate that the plan has not been submitted.

2. Little Singer Community Junior High School

(Submitted 2/4/05)

Richard Jones, NCLB Coordinator, stated that the memo requesting a copy of the ASIP did not include an e-mail address and thus he was not able to send the plan on the due date but did send it the day after.

3. Progressive Leadership Academy

Roland Pierce, Principal, stated that he had mis-read the due date in the memo and had assumed the due date was the 14th. The school began working on the plan in December and it has now been submitted.

4. Renaissance Academy - Malpais Campus (Submitted 2/7/05)

Steve Chavez, Charter Operator, stated that the plan has been submitted and had no excuse for late submission.

5. Tri-City Vo/Tech High School

Terrell Jackson, Charter Operator, stated that he had submitted the plan but it was not in the required template. He stated it was a mistake and will move forward.

L3. Discussion and possible action on the presentation of the School Improvement Plans (A.R.S. § 15-241.L).

1. Alta Vista Charter High School

William Coats, CEO of the Leona Group, informed the Board that they have put in place curriculum coaches at all of the schools and indicated that they serve a population that includes older students that are not counted in graduation rates and dropout rates.

Alicia Alvarez, School Leader for Alta Vista. Ms. Alvarez presented the School Improvement Plan to the Board.

36. Sun Valley High School

37. Sun Valley Middle School

Joe Procopico, School Leader for both Sun Valley campuses, presented the School Improvement Plan to the Board. Emily Britton, Assistant Principal for both schools, stated that they are committed to a high quality curriculum and need alternative timelines to meet their goals with students.

Kurt Davis left @ 11:45am

Agenda change due to Board members leaving

Agenda Item M--Board Comments

None

Agenda Item N--Approval of Minutes

January 10, 2005

MOTION

Motion by Lynne Adams to approve the minutes of January 10, 2005. Motion seconded by Mary Gifford.

Motion passes unanimously

Kimberly Mosher left at 11:58am

Onnie Shekerjian left at 12:00pm

****Lost Quorum****

3. Center for Academic Success, The #3:
Don Derek, Superintendent, presented the School Improvement Plan to the Board.

Gabriel Loyola left at 12:05pm

6. E-Institute:
Tim Smith, Charter Operator, Shannon Smith, John Cortez, Principal, & Scott Maxwell, Teacher, presented the School Improvement Plan to the Board.

Lynne Adams left at 12:10pm

7, 8, & 9 Excel Education Centers:
Mike Gerdes, Charter Operator, presented the School Improvement Plan to the Board.

11. Itzcalli Academy:
Vince Fuentes, Principal, presented the School Improvement Plan to the Board.

16 & 17 Lake Havasu Charter School:
Ray Lang, Accountant, presented the School Improvement Plan to the Board.

22. Ombudsman Learning Center:
Binky Michele King, presented the School Improvement Plan to the Board.

32. SABIS International:
Rachel Hildebrand, Principal, presented the School Improvement Plan to the Board.

Onnie Shekerjian arrives at 12:20pm

39 & 40. Victory High School:
Shirley Branham, Charter Operator, Jackie Jackson, Dean of Students, and Susan Mellott, Testing Coordinator, presented the School Improvement Plan to the Board.

Signature

Date

